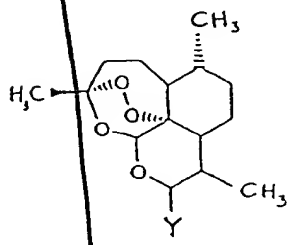
CLAIMS

1. A compound of the general formula I



(I)

or a salt thereof,

in which

Y represents a halogen atom, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, C-linked heteroaryl or heterocyclylalkyl group or a group $-NR^1R^2$; where

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group; or

R^1 and R^2 together with the interjacent nitrogen atom represent an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or an amino group derived from an optionally substituted amino acid ester;

for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a disease caused by infection with a parasite other than an organism of the genus Plasmodium.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which Y represents a halogen atom.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which Y represents a fluorine or bromine atom.

4. A compound according to claim 1 in which Y represents a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, a C_{5-18} aryl group, a 5- to 10-membered C-linked heteroaryl group or a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclyl-C_{1-6} alkyl group, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, carboxyl, C_{6-10} aryl, 5 to 10-membered heterocyclic and C_{1-4} alkyl- or phenyl-substituted 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic groups.

5. A compound according to claim 4 in which Y represents a C_{6-18} aryl group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, hydroxyl, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, amino, C_{1-4} alkylamino, di(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino and carboxyl groups.

6. A compound according to claim 4 or claim 5 in which Y represents a phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl or phenanthryl group, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms and hydroxyl, methyl, vinyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy and carboxyl groups.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 4 to 6 in which Y represents a phenyl, fluorophenyl chlorophenyl, bromophenyl, trimethylphenyl, vinylphenyl, methoxyphenyl,

at least

dimethoxyphenyl, trimethoxyphenyl, carboxylphenyl, naphthyl, hydroxynaphthyl, methoxynaphthyl, anthryl or phenanthryl group.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 4 to 7 in which Y represents a phenyl or trimethoxyphenyl group.

9. A compound according to claim 1 in which Y represents a group $-NR^1R^2$ where R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group and R^2 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{6-10} aryl or C_{7-16} aralkyl group, or R^1 and R^2 together with the interjacent nitrogen atom represent a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic group or an amino group derived from a C_{1-6} alkyl ester of an amino acid, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, phenyl, halophenyl, C_{1-4} alkylphenyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylphenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxyphenyl, benzyl, pyridyl and pyrimidinyl groups.

10. A compound according to claim 9 in which Y represents a group $-NR^1R^2$ where R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group and R^2 represents a C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, phenyl or benzyl group, or R^1 and R^2 together with the interjacent nitrogen atom represent a 6- to 10-membered heterocyclic group or an amino group derived from a C_{1-4} alkyl ester of an amino acid, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, phenyl, halophenyl, C_{1-4} alkylphenyl, C_{1-4} haloalkylphenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxyphenyl, benzyl, pyridyl and pyrimidinyl groups.

11. A compound according to claim 9 or claim 10 in which Y represents a propylamino, cyclopentylamino, cyclohexylamino, phenylamino, fluorophenylamino, chlorophenylamino, bromophenylamino, iodophenylamino, methoxycarbonylphenylamino, biphenylamino, benzylamino, fluorobenzylamino, bis(trifluoromethyl)benzylamino, phenylethylamino, phenyl-methoxycarbonylmethylamino, diethylamino, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, morpholinosulphonyl, indolinyl, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, phenylpiperazinyl, fluorophenylpiperazinyl, chlorophenylpiperazinyl, methylphenylpiperazinyl, trifluoromethylphenylpiperazinyl, methoxyphenylpiperazinyl, benzylpiperazinyl, pyridylpiperazinyl and pyrimidinylpiperazinyl group.

12. A compound according to any one of claims 9 to 11 in which Y represents a propylamino, phenylamino, bromophenylamino, iodophenylamino, biphenylamino, benzylamino, bis(trifluoromethyl)benzylamino, phenylethylamino, phenyl-methoxycarbonylmethylamino or morpholinyl group.

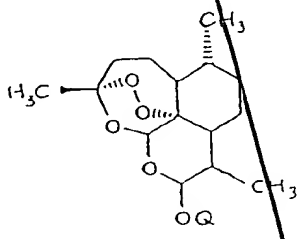
13. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims in which the parasite is an organism of the genus Neospora or the genus Eimeria.

14. Use of a compound of the general formula I as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a disease caused by infection with a parasite other than an organism of the genus Plasmodium.

15. Use according to claim 14 in which the parasite is an organism of the genus Neospora or the genus Eimeria.

16. A compound of the general formula I as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12, with the proviso that, when Y is a group $-NR^1R^2$ and R^2 represents a phenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 3-bromophenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-iodophenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-carboxylphenyl or 4-carboxylphenyl group, then R^1 is an optionally substituted alkyl group.

17. A process for the preparation of a compound of the general formula I according to claim 16 which comprises reacting a compound of the general formula II



(II)

in which Q represents a hydrogen atom or trimethylsilyl group, with a suitable halogenating agent to form a compound of the general formula I in which Y represents a halogen atom; and, if desired, reacting the compound of general formula I thus formed either with a Grignard reagent of the general formula YMgX where Y is an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, C-linked heteroaryl or heterocyclylalkyl group and X is a halogen atom to form a compound of general formula I in which Y represents an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, C-linked heteroaryl or heterocyclylalkyl group or with an

amine of the general formula HNR^1R^2 where R^1 and R^2 are as defined in claim 13 to form a compound of general formula I in which Y represents a group $-NR^1R^2$ where R^1 and R^2 are as defined above.

18. A process according to claim 17 in which a compound of the general formula I in which Y represents a bromine atom is generated in situ by reacting a compound of the general formula II in which Q represents a trimethylsilyl group with bromotrimethylsilane.

19. A process for the preparation of a compound of the general formula I according to claim 16 in which Y represents an optionally substituted cycloalkyl, aryl, C-linked heteroaryl or heterocyclylalkyl group which comprises reacting 9,10-anhydroartemisinin with a compound of the general formula Y-H, where Y is as defined above, in the presence of a suitable Lewis acid.

20. A process for the preparation of a compound of the general formula I as defined in claim 1 in which Y represents an optionally substituted aryl or C-linked heteroaryl group which comprises reacting 10-trichloroacetimidoyl-10-deoxoartemisinin with a compound of the general formula Y-H, where Y is defined above, in the presence of a suitable Lewis acid.

21. A process according to claim 18 in which the 10-trichloroacetimidoyl-10-deoxoartemisnin is generated in situ by reacting a compound of formula II as defined in claim 17 in which Q represents a hydrogen atom with trichloroacetonitrile in the presence of a suitable base.

22. A process for the preparation of a compound of the general formula I as defined in claim 1 in which Y represents an optionally substituted aryl or C-linked heteroaryl group which comprises reacting a 10-acyloxyartemisinin compound in which the acyloxy group is of formula A-(C=O)-O-, where A represents an optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclic or polycyclic group, with a compound of the general formula Y-H, where Y is as defined above, in the presence of a Lewis acid.

23. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a carrier and, as active ingredient, a compound of the general formula I according to claim 16.

24. A compound of the general formula I according to claim 16 for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a disease caused by infection with a parasite of the genus Plasmodium.

25. Use of a compound of the general formula I according to Claim 16 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a disease caused by infection with a parasite of the genus Plasmodium.

26. A method for treating a disease caused by infection with a parasite other than an organism of the genus Plasmodium which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the general formula I as defined in claim 1.

27. A method for treating a disease caused by infection with a parasite of the genus Plasmodium which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the general formula I according to claim 16.

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